Enter BARDOLPH.

How now, Bardolph ?

BARD. The army is discharged all, and gone.

FAL. Let them go. I'll through Glostershire; and there will I visit master Robert Shallow, esquire : I have him already tempering between my finger and my thumb \ and shortly will I seal with him* Come away.

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.

Westminster. A Room in the Palace.

Enter King HENRY,, CLARENCE, Prince PHREY, WARFICK, *and Others.*

*K** HEN. Now, lords, if heaven doth give successful end
To this debate that bleedeth at our doors,
We will our youth lead on to higher fields,
And draw no swords but what are sanctified.

sweetened by art, and therefore affords no adequate idea of the liquor that was Falstaff s favourite. STEEVENS.

[1] — I have him already TEMPERING, &c.] A very pleasant allusion to the old use of sealing with soft wax. WARBURTON.

This custom is likewise alluded to in Any Thing for a quiet Life, 1662, a comedy, by Middleton :

" You must *temper* him like wax, or he'll not seal,"

Again, in Your Five Gallants, by Middleton, no date:

" Fetch a pennyworth of *soft* wax to seal letters."

Again, in Chaucer's Marchante's Tale, v. 9304 :

" Right as men may warm *wax with handes plie.*" STEEVENS.

In our poet's Venus and Adonis, there is an allusion to the same custom:

" What wax so frozen but dissolves with *tempering*,
** And yields at last to every light impression ? " MALONE.